South Haven Tribune

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July 12, 2026

Don Campbell / HP staff

Dr. Ken Flowers has served as president of Lake Michigan College since April.

Making an impact

Ken Flowers' journey from apprentice to LMC college president

By JULIE NEWELL
SH Tribune Editor

BENTON TOWNSHIP — From working as an engineering apprentice to president of Lake Michigan College, Ken Flowers

Flowers started working at Hanson Mold when he was 18 as an apprentice, looking to follow in his father's footsteps and eventually work his way up to a leadership position.

"When I was 18 years old, I was interviewing at Hanson Mold and Welding – is what it was called at the time – interviewing there, and they said, 'Well, what are your goals?' And I said, 'I want to be in management, I want to work towards leadership,'" Flowers said. "Mostly emulated my dad; my dad went through an apprenticeship, ended up as management (and) spent 27 years at Whirlpool.

Flower's said his dad started from the bottom and worked his way up to a leadership position.

"(He) started from sweeping the floor, went through apprenticeship, much like I did and ended up leading a space," Flowers said. "I also followed my dad's footsteps in engineering. Leadership, engineering and that was kind of the plan."

After six years working at Hanson Mold, he was given a job in the company's engineering department and worked there for another six years.

While working, Flowers attended Lake Michigan College and earned an associate's degree in general studies.

"Once I went to Lake Michigan College, I really wasn't sure what I was going to do next; I always thought I'd get into engineering," Flowers said, "When I was at Hanson Mold, I went into their engineering department, I started taking classes along that realm. I was going to go to Western (Michigan University) for engineering, but one of the things I really liked doing was teaching and working with apprentices. I missed doing that. I also missed machining, because that was a big part of something I really loved doing."

Flowers started teaching at Lake Michigan College in 1997 as an adjunct faculty member.

"I was a subject matter expert, so, I was able to get in and teach in that space and just really loved it," Flowers said. "Originally, I was going to wait, like, hey, let me get my other degree – because they just hired a new faculty – I'm like, he'll retire in 10 years (and) I'll apply for that position. Well, in a year and a half he quit. Well, I said I was going to apply. I applied and got it, and then for many years, full-time faculty and then took on the department chair role as department chair."

Before becoming a full-time faculty member, Flowers attended Western Michigan University to earn a teaching degree.

"I love part-time teaching; what if I like full-time teaching? Then I started going to classes to become a teacher and went to Western," Flowers said. "So I went to Western for a little while. The teaching degree with Western didn't really work out, so then I was like, well, I just wanted to get a degree now. I got the job at Lake Michigan College for a full-time faculty member in 1999. From there, the president at time, was like, hey, we like our faculty members to have master's degrees."

Flowers then attended Siena Heights University and earned his bachelor's degree in applied science with a focus on management before earning a master's degree in career tech with a focus on administration from Ferris State University and eventually earned a PhD in educational leadership from Western Michigan University.

"It took me – my time of working, part time, working full time, and going to school part time – it took like six years for me to get my associate degree," Flowers said. "Then I put school down for a while because I had two children. My wife and I started having kids and I didn't start going back to school, I think, until '98.

"(In) 2002, I got my bachelor's degree, really worked hard, I got my associate degree for my master's pretty quickly in 2004, but then it wasn't until 2015 till I got my Ph.D. So, that span of graduating high school in 1985 to getting my Ph.D. was 30 years."

Flowers said it wasn't the typical route to getting his degrees, but it is what worked out best for him.

"It just shows – I try to explain to people – you don't have to do it all right away and you can always go back to school and take a class here, class there, do (what) best suits you," Flowers said.

In 2014, Flowers got the dean position at Lake Michigan College and had decided to work toward becoming the president of the college.

"The whole time – I think Dr. Kabosky was a president here for nine years – I've been telling people, I was almost finished with my Ph.D., that I eventually wanted to be a college president," Flowers said. "So, he knew that when he hired in here and he kept talking to me about it. Fast forward to 2022: The vice

See **FLOWERS**, page A2

Warner Vineyards seeks tasting room license in South Haven

By JULIE NEWELL
SH Tribune Editor

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven City Council set a public hearing for Warner Vineyards's request to have an on-premise tasting room.

Warner Vineyard currently has an off-premise tasting room license and a microbrewer license, but would like to have an on-premise license.

"This had come forward from the Warner Vineyard to ask us to look at an on-premise tasting room license," City Manager Kate Hosier said this week. "Anytime we do an on-premise tasting room license, there needs to be, similar to our previous activity, there needs to be a local resolution of support recommending such application of Michigan liquor control."

City Attorney Dave Eberle said the off-premise license allows Warner Vineyard to serve full drinks with spirits and wine at a different site, but does not allow them to sell beer that is microbrewed on site.

City Council Member Jeff Arnold asked if there would be any issues with Warner Vineyard brewing on site.

"Do we anticipate, if they're going to start brewing down there, I know with Harbor Light there was some growing pains, smells, stuff like that," he said. "Do we anticipate any of those problems down there?"

Hosier said she was unsure, but those questions could be answered during the public hearing when the owner would be in attendance.

The public hearing is set to take place at the next meeting on July 19.

Other items

City council approved a license agreement with Old Harbor Village Condominium Association Inc., JWILCO Properties LLC, SVEIKS, Inc., to maintain commercial dumpsters on city property at the Williams Street parking lot.

"The city obviously owns the parking lot on Williams Street and there has been some agreement when the street was reconstructed in 2010 to allow dumpsters to be placed on city property for other consideration," Hosier said. "We were unable to find such agreement, but what we had found was one: the DDA recently funded the renovation of that parking lot, and then two: the dumpster enclosure has just been completely torn up by wind, people just banging into it and all sorts of things."

Hosier said the enclosure would have to be fixed which would be funded by the South Haven Downtown Development Authority, but the city would need to have a license agreement to allow the business to have the dumpsters be on city property.

Quotes were approved by the city council during Monday's meeting from Lakefront Roofing and Exteriors to replace the roof, soffits and facia at the North Beach Concession for $18,087.27.

"Previously we had made upgrades to the flooring that was causing an issue with the county health department from certifying it," Hosier said. "Since then and we had been talking that the roof is in poor condition and recently he has sent me a video of it actively leaking during a rainstorm."

Hosier said after getting quotes from two different businesses and assessing the building with park staff, they found the outside facia and soffits are rotting as well.

The work would be done together, but the roof and facia were two different quotes that totaled $18,087.27.

City council approved three special events including:

- "Bark" BQ to be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7 in the Huron Street Pavilion.
- 3rd Annual Lowlight Music Festival, to be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, July 18 from at South Haven Riverfront Park.
- Movie in the Park to be held from 9 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, July 11 at Elkenburg Park.

Contact: jnewell@southhaventribune.com, 269-637-1104.

Senior Services receives grant for senior housing project

By JULIE NEWELL
SH Tribune Editor

SOUTH HAVEN — Senior Services of Van Buren County gave an update during Wednesday's South Haven Township board meeting about a new senior housing project that.

Senior Services applied for grant funding from Michigan State Housing Development Authority in April and was awarded the grant.

"I really appreciate the support that we got from the township," Diane Rigozzi, executive director of Senior Services of Van Buren County said. "Every day we get seniors in that need housing. Some of them are homeless and some of them are getting kicked out of their homes for some reason and they don't know what to do."

Rigozzi said the project will take two years to complete, with the goal of having residents move in starting in the summer of 2028.

The apartments will have 42 units with 38 one bedroom and four two bedroom units. The rent will have a tiered price range.

Rigozzi said they were unable to get vouchers for subsidized housing, but with the help of private donors, they were able to raise enough money for subsidized housing for 10 years.

Other items

The board approved an insurance renewal with Acrisure with a premium of $11,635 which is an increase from last year's of $10,707.

Trustee Clerk Brenda Bertorelli said they budgeted for $12,000, so the new premium is within the budget.

The board set a public hearing for a new fire milage to take place on Aug. 12 during the township board meeting.

The board approved amendments to the budget including an increase of $100 for office supplies for elections, memberships and dues increase of $300 and fire hydrant rental increase of $1,800.

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OBITUARIES

Paula Batema

Aug. 5, 1949 – July 1, 2026

Paula Batema (Czinder) passed away on July 1, 2026. Born Aug. 5, 1949 in Grand Haven, Mich.

Paula was blessed with 39 years of marriage to Steve Batema. They were married in Oswego, N.Y., in 1986.

She, graduated from Spring Lake High School in 1967, where she competed in many roller skating competitions. She was later the sole owner of Petal Palace florist shop in South Haven for 11 years. Paula also retained her amateur radio operator's license in 1982 (N8EMV).

She will be missed by her husband, Steve Batema, and her four stepchildren; Shane Batema, Shawn Batema, Michelle Batema, and Melissa Hue. along with seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; Cousin Bonnie (Pete) and Dave Koronkiewicz; Sara Koronkiewicz and Ryan and wife Jonie Koronkiewicz; and best friend Nancy Judy.

Paula was preceded in death by her parents Hazel Czinder and Paul Czinder.

Paula will be remembered fondly by those close to her for her love of traditions, sense of humor, quick sarcastic comebacks, strength and generosity, and, of course, her walking pharmacy, but above all, she loved and cherished her family, who were her greatest source of pride and joy.

In honor of Paula, the family kindly asks to send any donations or contributions to Hospice of Holland.

A celebration of life will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. on Aug. 15 at the Grand Haven Elks Club located at 15 S 3rd Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Esther Ford

April 13, 1939 – June 30, 2026

Esther M. Ford age 87 of Portage, Mich. passed away Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at Bronson Methodist Hospital. Esther was born April 13, 1939, in South Haven, Mich. the daughter of Charles and Mary (Jones) Lamb.

Esther was born the fifth child in a family of eight children (seven were girls). Even in such a large family with so many girls, Esther grew to be uniquely Esther. Though she and her sisters shared many of the same values and philosophies, Esther cut her own path. With such a large brood, her parents instilled in their children the idea that knowledge was wealth.

Esther was persistent in pursuing higher math classes at a time when young ladies were encouraged to focus on other subjects. When personal computers were available in the 1980s, she jumped right in.

In her retirement years, she assisted kindergarteners with computers. A car accident claimed her first husband before the children were out of the home. She persevered through the sorrow while raising her children. Later, she was available to other widows with a listening ear or words of wisdom.

When a quiet man saw Esther for the exceptional woman she was, he diligently pursued her. After Esther said "yes" to the first date with George Ford, they were married five months later. They had a great love story for 25 years. They fished, camped, canoed and yelled at dogs together. They loved their blended family together. They were each other's best gift.

Esther did not know a stranger. Meeting and getting to know other people, young or old, was her favorite hobby. If you wanted to share a joy or a heartache with her, she was all ears. And when she wanted to share with you, she had plenty to say. She always enjoyed sharing time with others. Esther shared her faith in action more than in words. She had a gift of being the calm and peace in crisis. When a person was broken-hearted and their life was falling apart, she helped them to take the hard but necessary steps or let them sit and restore. She seemed to know what was needed. Either way, there would be coffee available.

She graduated from South Haven High School, attended Western Michigan University and Lake Michigan College.

Esther was the program coordinator for Van Buren County Commission on Aging, and she attended Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Clair, Mich. and City Church in Kalamazoo, Mich.

She enjoyed knitting, fishing, camping and loved her dogs.

Surviving are five children, Cheryl (Brian Swenson) Warren, Nick (Karen) Warren, Dennis Warren, Justine (Marty) McKenna, Darcy (Bruce) Price. Seven Grandchildren, Kyra (Adam) Dills, Trey Warren, Candice (Zac O'Heran) Uhl, Samuel McKenna, Kim (Craig) Simpson, Greg (Kristi) Price, Amber (Jacob Wright) Ptacek; five great-grandchildren; three sisters, Jackie Parrott, Eleanora Cox, Sarah Chambers.

She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Robert N. Warren Sr., second husband, George W. Ford; brother, David Lamb; three sisters, Judith Van Ness, Laura Lamb, Majel Youdell; stepdaughter, Della Rigby.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the South Haven Housing Commission; please write Warren Senior Center on the memo line of your check.

Arrangements by Joldersma & Klein Funeral Home, Kalamazoo.

Susan Joyce

Feb. 28, 1929 – July 1, 2026

Susan L. Joyce, of South Haven, Mich. passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

Susan is survived by her brother John (Dorothy) Lorentzen, niece Kim (Bill) Grant, nephew Paul (Wendy) Lorentzen, God-daughter Josie (Mark) Kellon and her beloved cat, Chrissy.

She was predeceased by her parents Ida and George Lorentzen and husband Chuck Sasidek, who was the love of her life.

Susan grew up in Chicago's vibrant area of Hyde Park where she enjoyed swimming, skating and Sunday excursions with her father and brother to the area's many museums.

Susan was an art major at Grinel College and went on to work in the field of fashion and jewelry design.

As a young woman, Susan had an opportunity to live in Moscow for several years; and so began a passion for travel to faraway places. Her most recent excursion was a trip to Antarctica with her niece Kim.

Susan was an art collector and delighted in supporting local South Haven artists. Also, both Susan and her mother Ida were passionate advocates and supporters of Civil Rights.

Susan and her husband Chuck transitioned from city living to country life in South Haven Township forty years ago and were thrilled to join the local community.

Susan loved to dance, attend gallery openings, visit with friends and always looked forward to watching a new season with "her" Detroit Lions.

A private family burial will take place at a later date.

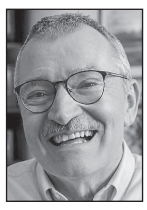
Donations in honor of Susan may be made to The South Haven Center for the Arts.

Those wishing to share a memory online may do so at www.starksfamilyfh.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Filbrandt Chapel-Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services. 269-637-0333.

Scott Stone

May 3, 1959 – July 2, 2026



Scott Stone went to be with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on July 2, 2026 after a 12-year long battle with (PLS) Primary Lateral Sclerosis, an early onset of ALS.

Scott was born in Allegan, Mich. on May 3, 1959 to the late Dick Stone and Carolyn Stone Bair.

Scott is survived by his siblings; Susan (Jim) Bard, Dick Stone, Dan (Debbie Nordahl) Stone, Sheri (Dave) Eichholzer, Connie (Brian) Hoffman, Brother-in-Law Steve Smedley, several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews, special niece Kelly Krotz that moved in and has cared for him the past three years. Also, special friend Mary Dunbar of South Bend, Ind.

Scott is preceded in death by his parents, baby sister Shelley Smedley, Sister-in-Law Linda Stone and Special friend Jerry Krzyzaniak.

After graduating Scott moved to Kalamazoo, Mich. and worked at Rykse's Restaurant as their baker. Then he moved to South Bend where he was employed at Martins Bakery until the onset of his disease when he could no longer work.

Scott loved all animals, especially birds and squirrels that he made sure always had enough seed to eat. He had a great love for dogs and loved when family and friends showed up with their pets for him to enjoy for the day.

Visitation for Scott will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 5 at Filbrandt Chapel 1076 S. Bailey Ave, South Haven, Michigan 49090.

A graveside service for Scott will be held at Tucker Cemetery in Bloomingdale, Mich. at a later date with Pastor Gary Guthrie officiating.

In Leu of flowers please consider a Donation to the ALS Foundation or Corewell Hospice of St. Joseph, Mich.

To those who choose to leave a memory or condolence please visit: www.starksfamilyfh.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to Filbrandt Chapel-Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services. 269-637-0333.

FLOWERS

From page A1

president position opened up, so I applied for that and got it and then ultimately, presidency."

His path to college president took 27 years, but Flowers said it has been a great experience.

"Now I can almost say I've worked in every different type of space here," Flowers said. "During decision making, whether it's faculty or other areas, I have a pretty good sense of how things are done."

Flowers said he wanted to be president to make a bigger impact at the school.

"Chuck Phillips was a vice president here and I had met with him at one point," Flowers said. "I said, 'Chuck, why did you want to be a vice president?' And he said, 'You know, Ken, we have, in your classroom, you have 15 to 20 students and you can impact that group of students. Then as a dean it's more and a VP it's even more.' When I started looking at it that way, if you want to try to build your student base and community base, as you move up in terms of level responsibility, you can potentially have a greater impact on more students."

Flowers said as president he can have an even bigger impact.

"As role of a president, not only do you have potential impact on those students and help them, you also have the opportunity to help the whole community," Flowers said. "The college is a foundational part of the community, so, there's a great opportunity to make lots of different headways no matter what you do. That's really what it was, is that core simple impact."

As president, Flowers said he does a little bit of everything.

"Ultimately, I'm responsible for the operation of the college," Flowers said. "Making sure the community supports us and making sure we're doing what they're asking us to do. Then externally, too, at many points, I'm the face of the college. When I'm out in the community, they're coming to me, letting me know how we're doing, good, bad or otherwise. I'm also connecting to make sure we're doing what we're supposed to be doing."

Over the corse of his career, Flowers said he is most proud of saving the apprenticeship program at Lake Michigan College.

"I'll never forget, I was in my classroom,the dean came to me and said, hey, just letting you know we're cutting apprenticeship," Flowers said. "I was like, 'What?' He said, 'We're cutting apprenticeship' and I just stood up and said, 'No, you're not, you're not cutting apprenticeship.' He's like, 'Well, it's too late. We already let the two apprenticeship people go.' I said, 'Well, I don't care, I will lead apprenticeship, you don't have to even pay me any extra. Our community needs this, you're not getting rid of it.'"

Flowers said he went to the local shops and would sign people up for the program himself instead of waiting for them to sign up themselves.

"From that point of view, that was very memorable to me, where the college was saying one thing and I stood up and said, no, you're not, to the institution and it worked in my favor and it worked in the community's favor," Flowers said.

Flowers said he also loves being able to help students find a job.

"There's too many to count how many students that have come in and that we've helped get jobs or help position," Flowers said. "I mean, that's one of my most memorable things is working with a student and helping them get a job somewhere and then later on going and visiting that business and seeing that student."

However, being president can have it's difficult moments.

"Probably one of the most difficult moments, is we were writing a grant, we were basically assured that we were going to get it," Flowers said. "It was when we were working at the tech center. What that was going to do was help us build a new space here and really grow our tech. One of the things that happened was, at that same time as we were developing that and thinking we were going to get that, we were moving out of the tech center at MTEC.

"All of a sudden I get a call from my boss one day and she said that, um, hey, we didn't get the grant. So that basically means the thing that we were going to do to the build the new tech center wasn't going to happen when we thought it was."

Flowers said they had two options: continue what they were doing, building trailers and refurbishing some of the space, or move back to MTEC, even though they had already moved out most of their supplies.

"I'll never forget walking back in the MTEC, and I've got my team and they're literally carrying things out," Flowers said. "I was like, 'Hold on,' I said, 'Hey, we're not leaving.' They just turn around, walk back in. That says something about when you build a good team, and they trust the decisions that you make, they never said boo about it, even though they had to put a lot of things back. They're excited because they loved MTEC as a facility, but it was one of those really difficult decisions to make.

"It was an expensive decision to stay there a little bit longer, but it was the right decision and we were able to really spend some time building, getting ready for the Hanson Tech Center that we have out now."

Looking to the future of his career, Flowers said he thinks he has reached the position he wants to be in.

"My goal in terms of being in this role is at least to try to do it for at least 10 years," Flowers said. "That's my long term goal – if I can give the college some stability. Ultimately, growing the college, as I mentioned, residents hall, that's not a goal, that's more of a space that you build, it shows that the community is growing. If that space can grow, if our student base can grow."

Flowers said a big focus for him is making sure people have good career opportunities.

"Bringing companies to this community because we have a strong college where they know people are going to learn and provide great career opportunities for people," Flowers said. "Those kind of things is what I focus on. Making sure that our students have life-sustaining wages, making sure our employees have licensing wages. Those are all foundational goals that I have for what we're doing here. Making sure that we're helping build careers for people so they can live and do what they want to do."

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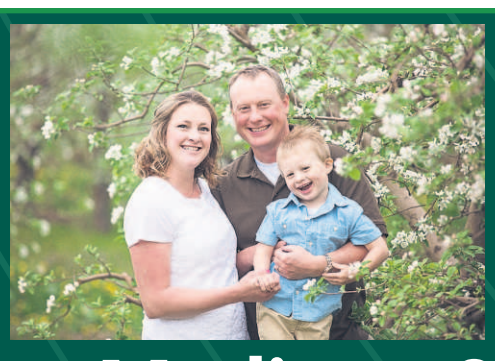

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Julie Newell / Tribune Editor

Representatives from Corewell Health and South Haven community members recently gathered to break ground at the new South Have urgent care center.

Corewell Health breaks ground on South Haven urgent care

By JULIE NEWELL
SH Tribune Editor

SOUTH HAVEN — Representatives from Corewell Health, The City of South Haven and South Haven Charter Township recently gathered to break ground at the new South Have urgent care center.

"We're partnering together to make access to care more accessible and local," Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan President Natalie Baggio said. "Ultimately, people are going to have the care at the right time and the right location."

The care center will have 23 exam rooms, four procedure rooms and will offer a variety of services including urgent care and primary care.

"The urgent care will be open 12 hours out of the day (and) it will have x-ray accessibility and laboratory accessibility included in it," Dr. Michelino Mancini said. "In addition to that, we'll have primary care – which includes pediatric care at that location – and primary care will be there five days a week. Then we'll have orthopedics, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general surgery and pulmonology."

Julie Newell / Tribune Editor

South Haven Mayor Annie Brown, South Haven Township Trustee Maureen Lewandowski, City Manager Kate Hosier, Chief Brandon Hinz and council members Tom Capps and Mary Hosley enjoyed free ice cream at the groundbreaking of the new South Haven urgent care.

The construction is set to begin immediately and finish in July of 2027.

"Our goal is to be done and live by the end of July next year," Director of Planning, Design and Construction Phil Cooper said. "It's (the center) our ICC concept which is integrated care campus ... it's a design that accommodates the ability to change and shift as the needs of the community shifts."

Among the community members who attended the groundbreaking were South Haven Mayor Annie Brown, South Haven Township Supervisor Ross Stein and Council Member Tom Capps who campaigned on getting better healthcare in South Haven.

"I think this is great," Capps said. "South Haven has needed it for a long time. I think it's great for South Haven, I'm glad we got it."

The new care center will be located at 71989 County Road 288, just off of Phoenix Road in South Haven.

"Our city manager Kate Hosier is amazing and very proactive and about a year ago she met with people from Corewell and told them what we needed," Brown said. "This is exactly what we need and it's only just and right that people in South Haven get the healthcare that they need."

Contact: jnewell@southhaventribune.com, 269-637-1104.

South Haven to host free citizen's police academy program

By TRIBUNE STAFF

SOUTH HAVEN — The South Haven Police Department recently announced the launch of its new Citizen's Police Academy.

According to a news release, the academy is a free 10-week program designed to give community members a behind-the-scenes look at modern policing and the many ways officers service the community.

"The Citizen's Police Academy is an opportunity for residents to see firsthand what goes into policing our community every day," Police Chief Adam DeBoer said in the release. "We hope participants leave with a better understanding of our profession, the challenges we face, and the importance of the partnerships we share with the people we serve."

The academy provides participants with an engaging, hands-on learning experience through classroom instruction, demonstrations, and interactive activities led by members of the South Haven Police Department.

"Participants will gain a greater understanding of the department's operations while building stronger relationships between law enforcement and the community," the release stated.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. over a 10-week period, with two special Saturday training sessions.

The academy is free to attend; however, space is limited and participants must complete an application by Aug. 10 to be considered.

For additional information, contact Sergeant Lucas Keene at lkeene@southhavenmi.gov or via phone at 269-637-5151.

Lake Michigan College launches new project management accelerator

By TRIBUNE STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College is launching a new workforce training program designed to develop project management skills through a combination of structured instruction and real-world application.

According to a news release, the project management accelerator begins Sept. 8 and is now open for enrollment.

The 48-week program is applicable across industries, including manufacturing, construction, municipal public works, business operations and engineering, as well as to any organization managing complex projects with interdependent timelines.

"Local employers have told us that this is the type of intensive project management training that can directly improve their business operations. By developing professionals within their organizations who can drive well-executed project management, businesses can better provide on-time goods and services delivery that builds a reputation for reliability and strengthens the organization's bottom line," said David Kreuger, LMC dean of Career and Workforce Education, in the release.

The 152-hour course provides in-depth instruction in predictive and hybrid project management methods. Participants receive instruction through weekly, two-hour live online sessions, supplemented by seven full-day, in-person workshops held at LMC's Todd Center on the Benton Harbor campus.

Concurrently, they will put newly learned classroom concepts to work immediately on real projects from their workplace or a sample project supplied through the course.

By working through the full project lifecycle in real time, from initiating and planning through execution, performance tracking and closeout, participants complete on-the-job project work that delivers direct value to their current job. The hands-on experience is theirs to reference in performance reviews, promotion conversations and professional development discussions.

All participants who successfully complete the program will leave with a professional portfolio that demonstrates skills they have developed, along with a project management certification from LMC.

The project management accelerator meets online Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., Sept. 8 through Aug. 27, 2027, with seven day-long in-person workshop sessions held at the Todd Center, about every four to six weeks.

The registration deadline is Sept. 1, but those registering by Aug. 8 pay $2,795 – a savings of $200 over the regular course cost of $2,995.

The accelerator application is available at form.jotform.com/261304348564053.

LMC staff can help sponsoring employers determine if they qualify for available state funding to offset the cost of registration.

For more information, contact Chad Dee at Extended Ed@lakemichigancollege.edu.

Palisades restart project reaches significant milestone

By TRIBUNE STAFF

COVERT — The Palisades restart project recently reached a watershed moment as the last of the major projects were successfully closed out

According to a news release, the site has transitioned from large-scale activities to the remaining routine maintenance, testing, inspection and operational readiness work required before startup.

"While more than 5,000 individual work activities remain, this transition represents an important milestone in the historic restart effort," the release stated.

Among the final accomplishments in this "project phase" of restart was placement of the plant's turbine-generator on turning gear following extensive inspections, maintenance, testing and refurbishment activities.

"These accomplishments reflect the tremendous amount of work performed across the station throughout the restart effort," Enterprise Unit Head Steven Soler and Site Vice President Michael Schultheis said in the release. "We're now focused on safely executing the remaining testing, verification and operational readiness activities required before startup. The plant is coming back together, and the professionalism and dedication demonstrated by our workforce continue to move the project forward."

Another major achievement was installation and testing of a new state-of-the-art fuel handling machine, completing the upgraded fuel handling system.

"Together, these projects represent the culmination of a series of major efforts carried out across the station," the release stated.

The projects marked an important transition in the Palisades restart, which included reactor vessel inspections and replacement of reactor head penetrations, primary system chemical decontamination and passivation, steam generator tube refurbishment and secondary-side cleaning, fuel receipt and inspection, operator training and re-qualification, and numerous equipment upgrades and modernization projects.

"Throughout this phase, our focus has been ensuring that Palisades is ready to support decades of safe, reliable operation," the release stated.

With the projects phase successfully completed, the plant's managers, superintendents and supervisors have shifted their focus to the remaining work through the Operations Command Center and several dedicated coordination teams, where work is being managed around the clock to prepare the station for startup.

"We are proud of the tenacity and rigorous persistence of our people, and grateful for the sense of purpose and dedication they bring to this historic effort," Lead OCC Shift Outage Manager Jason Stairs said in the release. "Our focus remains on safely completing the remaining work required as we prepare for fuel load."

In recent months, the site has also welcomed continued engagement from senior U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission leadership, including Commissioners Douglas Weaver and Bradley Crowell, as well as senior staff from the agency's Office of the Executive Director for Operations and Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector. During their visits, Nuclear Regulatory Commission leaders toured the facility and received updates on ongoing restart activities.

Palisades also welcomed U.S. Representative Bill Huizenga, who represents Michigan's 4th Congressional District and the Palisades community and U.S. Representative Scott Peters of California, a member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation visiting the site for an update on the restart. Their visit reflects the broad bipartisan support and engagement the restart program has received from local, state and federal leaders.

"The progress being made at Palisades is impressive and reflects the dedication and professionalism of the team carrying out this historic restart," Huizenga said in the release. "The return of this facility will strengthen energy reliability, support good-paying jobs, and reinforce Southwest Michigan's important role in America's energy future and the future of nuclear power."

Palisades remains focused on returning the plant to safe and reliable operation once all remaining work is complete and all federal requirements and industry standards are met.

"As we enter the final phase of this historic effort, we are grateful for the support provided by our federal, state, and community partners, whose collaboration has helped make this pioneering effort possible," Holtec Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kris Singh said in the release. "The Palisades restart will forever serve as lasting evidence of what can be accomplished when government and private industry work together to achieve an important national objective."

Van Buren County
Museum Car Show
Sunday July 12, 1-5 pm
"rain or shine in Hartford"
58471 Red Arrow Hwy
Plus: Trucks, Tractors, & Motorcycles
Registration starts at Noon:
Cash-only $10 Vehicle
NEW: NSRA Safety Team inspections
Music Vineyard Chicks
50/50 Raffle – Food
Museum Open

VAN BUREN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Last Chance!
2026 Blue Wave Summer Social
Sunday, July 19th
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.
The Old Winery Venue
646 N Nursery St, Lawton
Join us for an evening of community!
Scan for Tickets
Visit VanBurenDems.org for more information!

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Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292

Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-2pm EST

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0900 LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
ALLEGAN AND VAN BUREN COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the City Council of the of City of South Haven, Michigan pursuant to local ordinance 840 Liquor Control Ordinance section 14-73, will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 20, 2026, at City Hall, 539 Phoenix Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090, during a regular meeting of the City Council beginning at 7:00 p.m., local time.

The public hearing will be held to consider whether the City Council will approve a local application for an on-premises tasting room liquor license at 515 Williams Street Suite 11. Should this be approved by City Council the applicant must receive additional approval from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for the official permitting.

All aspects of the proposed application will be open for discussion at the public hearing.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that a copy of the proposed application is available for public inspection at City Clerk's office in the City Hall during normal business hours.

Michael Landis
Assistant City Manager
City of South Haven
(269) 637 0753

PUBLIC NOTICE
The South Haven Township Board of Review will meet on: Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 2pm at the Township Hall 09167 Blue Star Hwy South Haven, Michigan. The purpose of this meeting is to correct qualified errors. NO VALUATION APPEALS CAN BE HEARD.

The July and December Boards of Review have different authorities than the March Board of Review. The July and December Boards of Review meet to correct Qualified Errors, and to consider appeals related to the Principal Residence Exemption, Qualified Agricultural Exemption, Taxable Value Uncapping, the Qualified Start-up Business Exemption, and Poverty Exemptions.

Contact Information:
Don Jollay, MAAO
Phone: (815) 546-8288
Email: assessor@southhaventwpmi.gov
Mailing Address:
09167 Blue Star Hwy
South Haven, MI 49090

REGISTRATION NOTICE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE:
Cities of City of Bangor & City or South Haven, Township of: Arlington, Bangor Columbia, Covert, Geneva & South Haven Charter, Counties of Van Buren and Allegan, State of Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a State Primary Election will be held in said City/Township's on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, The last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk is Monday, July 29,2026. Persons registering between July 21, 2026, through August 4, 2026, may do so in person with the local clerk with proof of residency (MCL 186.492) at the following places.

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026-LAST DAY
During Regular Business Hours for the purpose of receiving applications for registration of the qualified electors in said city/townships

BANGOR CITY CLERK	257 W. Monroe, Bangor
SOUTH HAVEN CITY CLERK	539 Phoenix St., South Haven
ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP CLERK	52022 34th Ave, Bangor
BANGOR TOWNSHIP CLERK	32550 CR 687 St., Bangor
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP CLERK	53053 CR 388, Grand Junction
COVERT TOWNSHIP CLERK	73943 Lake Street, Covert
GENEVA TOWNSHIP CLERK	19881 CR 687, South Haven
SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TWP CLERK	09761 Blue Star Hwy, South Haven

In addition to nominating candidates for various offices and propositions(s), if any will be voted on.

BANGOR CITY CLERK	Shelly Umbanhowar
SOUTH HAVEN CITY CLERK	Brittany Abrams
ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP CLERK	Susan Wilson
BANGOR TOWNSHIP CLERK	Anette Houdek
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP CLERK	Kara Hartmann
COVERT TOWNSHIP CLERK	Wednesday Pritchard
GENEVA TOWNSHIP CLERK	Brandie Rainey
SOUTH HAVEN CHARTER TWP CLERK	Brenda Bertorelli

GENEVA TOWNSHIP VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
*RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC POLICY REGARDING UTILITY-SCALE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS IN GENEVA TOWNSHIP
*WHEREAS, Geneva Township is aware of utility-scale renewable energy projects being constructed around the State, including wind, solar, and battery energy storage facilities.
*WHEREAS, Geneva Township recognizes that it cannot wholly prevent the installation of these projects in the Township due to renewable energy preemption legislation adopted by the Michigan Legislature, being Public Acts 233 and 234 of 2023, and due to the Township's lack of zoning regulation, but nevertheless desires to establish a public policy with respect to such projects.
*WHEREAS, the Township Board has determined that utility-scale wind, solar, and battery energy storage installations would negatively impact the rural character and aesthetic qualities that define our community.
*WHEREAS, the Township Board has concerns about the potential environmental impacts of large-scale energy installations, including but not limited to wildlife habitat disruption, soil erosion, and potential groundwater impacts.
*WHEREAS, the Township Board recognizes the importance of preserving agricultural land and open spaces that contribute to the community's identity and economic base.
*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geneva Township Board hereby declares it to be the public policy of Geneva Township that utility-scale wind, solar, and battery energy storage installations are not compatible with the township's vision for community development and are not desired within township boundaries.
*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geneva Township Board will provide this resolution to any developer or State agency inquiring as to the construction and operation of utility-scale wind, solar, and battery energy storage installations within the township.
*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately.
*CERTIFICATION I, Brandie Rainey, Clerk of Geneva Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Board at a special meeting held on the 24h day of June 2026.

Extra Business is as easy as asking for it!
DO IT HERE, DO IT NOW!

PRIMARY ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Michigan Primary Election will be held in the City of Bangor, TOWNSHIPS of Arlington, Bangor, Columbia, Covert, Geneva, South Haven, County of Van Buren; City of South Haven, Counties of Van Buren & Allegan; State of Michigan within said City or Township on

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

At the places of HOLDING the ELECTION in said CITY/TOWNSHIP as indicated below, VIZ...

CITY OF BANGOR	257 West Monroe Street, Bangor
CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN	539 Phoenix Street, South Haven
ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP HALL	52022 34th Avenue, Bangor
BANGOR TOWNSHIP HALL	32550 CR 687, Bangor
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP HALL	53053 CR 388 Grand Junction
COVERT TOWNSHIP HALL	73943 Lake Street, Covert
GENEVA TOWNSHIP HALL	62127 CR 380, Bangor
SOUTH HAVEN TOWNSHIP HALL	09761 Blue Star Highway

FOR THE PURPOSE of Nominating Candidates of the Libertarian, Democratic & Republican Parties for Partisan Offices, VIZ.:

State	Governor
Congressional	U.S. Senator & U.S. Representative
Legislative	State Senator & State Representative
County	County Commissioner

Delegates to the County Convention of the Republican and Democratic Parties.
Also to vote on the following proposition(s) listed below:

VAN BUREN COUNTY Public Safety Millage Renewal Proposal
This proposal will allow Van Buren County to continue to levy 0.5332 mill, which was previously approved by the electors to fund drug enforcement and road patrol services, but which expired with the 2021 levy. As a renewal of previously authorized millage which expired with the 2021 levy, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in Van Buren County be increased by 0.5332 mill ($0.5332 per thousand dollars of taxable value), for a period of five (5) years, 2022 to 2026, inclusive, for the exclusive purpose of providing funds for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office for Drug Enforcement and Road Patrol? A portion of the revenue collected may be required to be distributed to the Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities and Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities established in South Haven City, Bangor City, Hartford, City, Gobles City, Keeler Township, South Haven Township, Villages of Lawrence, Lawton, Paw Paw and Mattawan. It is estimated that 0.5332 mill would raise approximately $1,884,933 when first levied in 2022.

Van Buren County AMBULANCE MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL
This proposal will allow Van Buren County to continue to levy 0.9370 mill, which was previously approved by the electors to fund ambulance services, but which will expire with the 2022 levy. As a renewal of previously authorized millage which will expire with the 2022 levy, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in Van Buren County be increased by 0.9370 mill ($0.9370 per thousand dollars of taxable value), for a period of four (4) years, 2023 to 2026, inclusive, for the exclusive purpose of providing funds for ambulance services? A portion of the revenue collected may be required to be distributed to the Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities and Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities established in South Haven City, Bangor City, Hartford, City, Gobles City, Keeler Township, South Haven Township, Villages of Lawrence, Lawton, Paw Paw and Mattawan.

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL
As a renewal of previously authorized millage which expired with the 2025 levy, the question presented in this ballot proposal is - Shall the expired previously voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Van Buren County, Michigan, of 0.1000 mill ($0.10 per $1,000 of Taxable Value), reduced to 0.0989 mills ($0.0989 per $1,000 taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at up to 0.0989 ($0.0989 per $1,000 taxable value) for a period of ten (10) years, 2026 through 2035 inclusive, for the sole purpose of funding Van Buren Conservation District programs including assisting landowners in the protection, enhancement, and restoration of natural resources, assist agricultural producers in the protection of soil and water and implementation of best management practices on farmland, increase household hazardous waste and recycling collection opportunities, and continue water quality initiatives, within the boundaries of Van Buren County?

City of South Haven Senior Services Millage
Shall the two previously voted mileages levied by the City of South Haven, Van Buren and Allegan Counties, Michigan, reduced by the required millage rollback to .2456 mills and .2456 mills respectively, be renewed and increased back to the original 0.25 mills ($.25 per $1,000 of taxable value) for a total of 0.50 mills ($.50 per $1,000 of taxable values) for a period of eight years (2022 through 2029, inclusive), to be paid to Senior Services of Van Buren County (also known as South Haven Area Senior Services) for the purpose of providing senior citizen activities and general senior services to senior citizens, which levies are estimated to raise a total of $249,688.84 in the first year, and shall the City of South Haven be authorized to levy said taxes?

City of South Haven Proposal for Additional Senior Millage
Shall the City of South Haven, Van Buren and Allegan Counties, Michigan, levy a new, additional millage of up to .5 mills ($.50 per $1,000 of taxable value) for a period of 8 years (2022 through 2029, inclusive), to be paid to Senior Services of Van Buren County (also known as South Haven Area Senior Services) for the purpose of providing senior citizen activities and general senior services to senior citizens, which levy is estimated to raise $249,688.84 in the first year of the levy, and shall the City of South Haven be authorized to levy said tax? (To the extent required by law, a portion of the tax levy will be captured by and disbursed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of the City of South Haven).

City of South Haven CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ENFORCEMENT MILLAGE PROPOSAL
Shall the previously voted increase in the limitation on general ad valorem taxes within the City of South Haven, Michigan, to fund activities to enforce laws in the City of South Haven which prohibit or control the manufacture, sale, delivery and use of "controlled substances" as defined by applicable state laws, rules and regulations, as reduced by the required millage rollback, be renewed at 0.6508 mill ($0.6508 per $1,000 of taxable value) and increased by 0.0492 mill ($0.0492 per $1,000 of taxable value), for a total of 0.70 mill($0.70 per $1,000 of taxable value), for a period of five (5) years, 2027 through 2031, inclusive, and shall the City of South Haven be authorized to levy this millage annually on all taxable property within the City of South Haven, thereby raising an estimated $467,150 in the first year of the levy?

City of Bangor Senior Services Millage
"Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes and Public Act 39 of 1976, within the City of Bangor be increased to 1 mil ($1.00 per $1,000 of taxable value) for the 8 year period of 2022 through 2029 inclusive (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029) for the purpose of providing funds to be paid to Senior Services of Van Buren County, Inc. for providing activities and general senior services pursuant to Public Act 39 of 1976 for individuals 60 years of age or older; and shall the city be authorized to levy such increase in millage for said purpose, thereby raising in the first year an estimated $36,46.074.

Arlington Township Senior Services
Shall the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes and Public Act 39 of 1976, within the Township of Arlington be increased to 1 mill ($1.00 per #1000 of taxable value) for the purpose of providing funds to be paid to Senior Services ofVan Buren County, Inc. for providing activities and general senior services pursuant to the public Act 39 of 1976 for individuals 60 years of age or older; and shall the Township be authorized to levy such increase in millage for said purpose thereby raising in the first year an estimated $69,406.30.

Bangor Township Road Millage
Shall the previously voted millage of 4 mils ($4.00 per $1,000 of taxable value), in the tax limitation, imposed under Article IX Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on general ad valorem taxes within the Township of Bangor, as reduced by the required millage rollback which last resulted in a levy of 3.9624 mils ($3.9624 per $1,000 of taxable value) on all real and personal property in Bangor Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, which expires in 2026, be renewed at the original voted 4 mils ($4.00 per $1,000 of taxable value) for the four (4) year period of 2027 through 2030 inclusive for the purpose of appropriating funds for road maintenance and construction within the unincorporated portions of the Township of Bangor; and shall the township levy such renewal in millage, thereby raising in the first year of levy an estimated $400,974?

Bangor Public Schools OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL
Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Bangor Public Schools, Van Buren County, Michigan, be increased by 3 mills ($3.00 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 9 years, 2026 to 2034, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2026 is approximately $76,988 (this millage is to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction)??"

South Haven Charter Township Road Millage
Shall the tax limitation on all taxable property within the Charter Township of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, be increased and the Township be authorized to renew a level of a millage in an amount not to exceed 1.45 mills ($ 1.45 on each $1,000 of taxable value) for four (4) years, 2026 to 2029 inclusive, to provide funds for constructing, preserving, improving, mowing, repairing, and maintaining roads and ditches in the Township? The estimate of the revenue the Township will collect in the first year if the millage is approved and levied in the 2026 calendar year is approximately$373,461.

Notice Relative to Opening and Closing of the Polls Election Law, Act 116, P.A. 1954, Section 720. On the date of any election, the polls shall be opened by 7 o'clock in the forenoon and shall be continuously open until 8 o'clock in the afternoon and no longer. Every qualified elector present and in line at the polls at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote.

BANGOR CITY CLERK	**SOUTH HAVEN CITY CLERK**	**ARLINGTON TWP CLERK**
Shelly Umbanhowar	Brittany Abrams	Susan Wilson
BANGOR TWP CLERK	**COLUMBIA TWP CLERK**	**COVERT TWP CLERK**
Annette Houdek	Kara Hartmann	Wednesday Pritchard
GENEVA TWP CLERK	**SOUTH HAVEN TWP CLERK**	
Brandie Rainey	Brenda Bertorelli	

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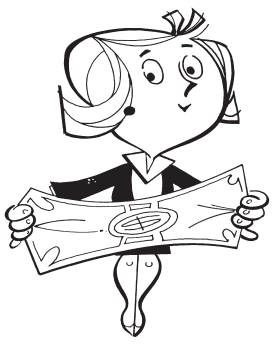

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Field Plumbing and Heating celebrates 65 years

By TRIBUNE STAFF

Photo provided

The family-owned company Field Plumbing and Heating celebrates 65 years of serving Southwest Michigan.

SOUTH HAVEN — The South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Field Plumbing and Heating to the chamber as the family-owned company celebrates 65 years of serving Southwest Michigan.

According to a news release, the company was founded in 1961 by three brothers Raymond, Larry and Ted Field.

"Field Plumbing and Heating has built a reputation for trusted plumbing, heating, cooling, and indoor comfort solutions backed by exceptional workmanship, honest service, and strong family values," the release stated. "Today, the company is led by second-generation owner Ken Field alongside his daughter, Sarah Preston, continuing the legacy of professionalism, integrity and community involvement that has defined the business for more than six decades."

Field Plumbing and Heating provides a full range of residential and commercial services, including: plumbing repairs and installations, heating and air conditioning systems, boilers, heat pumps, water heaters, indoor air quality solutions, whole-home generators and preventative maintenance.

The company serves communities throughout Southwest Michigan, including South Haven, with a commitment to helping customers understand their options so they can make informed decisions for their homes and businesses.

"As the company celebrates its 65th anniversary, Field Plumbing and Heating reflects on a legacy built through the support of its customers, employees and the communities it serves," the release stated. "Guided by core values of professionalism, respect, and excellence, the company remains committed to improving the lives of its customers through quality workmanship and exceptional care."

In addition to serving homeowners and businesses, Field Plumbing and Heating invests in the future of the skilled trades through its paid, nationally accredited four-year apprenticeship program, helping train the next generation of plumbing and HVAC professionals

"The South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome Field Plumbing and Heating as a member and looks forward to supporting their continued growth and continued service to the South Haven community for many years to come," the release stated.

To learn more about Field Plumbing and Heating or to schedule a service, visit their website or call 269-674-3839.

South Haven streets get fresh pavement markings

By TRIBUNE STAFF

SOUTH HAVEN — PK Contracting started painting centerlines and edge lines on various streets in the city Thursday.

According to a news release, they will return on July 13 to continue applying pavement markings and the work is expected to be completed by July 15.

"As part of this work, edge lines will be added downtown to mark clearly the travel lane," the release stated.

These new markings will be on Phoenix Street (between Broadway Avenue and Kalamazoo Avenue) and Center Street (between Williams Street and Huron Street).

After PK Contracting completes the edge lines, city staff will repaint the ends of the angled parking spaces to meet the new edge lines.

"As a reminder, please give the painting crew extra distance and do not follow closely behind the painting crew," the release stated. "We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause."

For questions regarding this matter, contact Bella Haberski at 269-637-0776 or via email at bhaberski@southhavenmi.gov.

SH to host Roaring Twenties presentation

By TRIBUNE STAFF

LAYTON

SOUTH HAVEN — The Historical Association of South Haven is inviting the community to take a step back in time to the Roaring Twenties with a special presentation entitled "Scandal and Shine."

According to a news release, the presentation will take place at 7 p.m. on July 15 with Executive Director of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum Erica Layton presenting a program on Prohibition in West Michigan.

"'Scandal and Shine' explores how the Temperance Movement, organized crime, bootlegging, speakeasies, and everyday citizens shaped one of the most controversial chapters in American history," the release stated. "Through compelling local stories, historic photographs and newspaper accounts, this presentation reveals how a national experiment played out in our own backyards – and how its legacy continues to influence us today."

Erica has served as the executive director of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum since 2022. She previously held leadership positions with the Interpretive Sites Coalition, Jackson County Parks and Recreation and the Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum in Missouri.

The presentation will be held at the Forest House Hotel, 313 Center St. in downtown South Haven. It is free and open to the public.

Paw Paw seeks volunteers to combat invasive lanternfly

By TRIBUNE STAFF

PAW PAW — The SWx-SW Corner CISMA Team of the Van Buren Conservation District is recruiting people in Southwest Michigan who would like to participate in trapping and surveying the invasive spotted lanternfly.

According to a news release, residents can qualify if they have a tree of heaven on their property and/or grow grapes.

For this year-long program, participants will receive:

- One free trap
- Technical support from experts
- Training on how to set up traps, identify spotted lanternfly, and what to do if you find them
- Check-ins with dedicated staff

Those interested can contact the Van Buren Conservation District by July 27.

For more information, contact CISMA Coordinator Alex Florian at InvasivesED@VanBurenCD.org or via phone at 269-633-9044.

This project was funded by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program.

For more information, go to Michigan.gov/Invasives.

The Spotlight
A Weekly Guide To Services & Business Around Town.

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Floyd Decker, Manager

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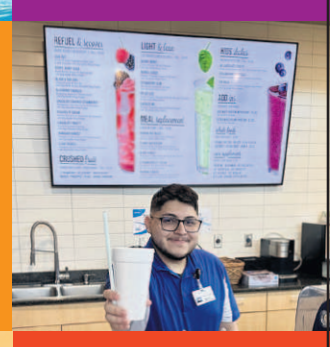

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing events

Visually impaired and blind persons support group meeting: Every third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at Senior Services of Van Buren County.

Dementia and Alzheimer's caregivers support group meeting: Every third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church library.

Three Blondes Brewing: Trivia night on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Sparkle and Spice Boutique: Mom and Me play date. Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m.

South Haven Center for the Arts: Center Studio for adults from 6-8 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Artists of any level can bring their own projects to work on. Basic art supplies will be available. Attendees must be 18 years old and over. Members are free, non-members cost $5.

South Haven Center for the Arts: Center Studio for ages 9 to 13 from 4-5:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Young artists are invited to create art at their own pace with an instructor to help guide as needed. Free workshop but a $10 donation is suggested to help cover cost of supplies.

Candlelight Yoga: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Epiphany. Cost is $15.

Food pantry: First Congregational Church open from 10 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It is a drive-up food pantry.

Food pantry: Sacred Heart Catholic Church. For Bangor residents only. Open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays.

Food, clothing, baby pantry: Lily of the Valley Church in Covert. Open from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays. Must call the central office to register.

Personal care and clothing pantry: First Assembly of God open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. Must call the central office to register.

Baby pantry: Peace Lutheran Church open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Must call the central office to register.

Baby pantry: Simpson United Methodist Church in Bangor. Open from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays. Must call the central office to register.

HawksHead: Pasta on the Patio every Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Michigan Maritime Museum: Hands-on the Harbor every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Lakeside Social Bowling Alley: Glow Bowl every Friday from noon to 9 p.m.

Bridge: Chicago Scoring at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays at the South Haven Memorial Library.

Bridge: Duplicate Scoring at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays at the South Haven Memorial Library.

First United Methodist Church: Free meals every Tuesday night. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Meal is served at 6 p.m.

South Haven Memorial Library: Bridge Card Game from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday. Open to the public. Beginners are welcome.

Covert Branch Library: After school art workshop for students grades 6 through 12 every Monday from 3 to 5 p.m.

South Haven Farmers Market: Open from 8 a.m. to 2pm on Saturdays, from May to October; and on Wednesdays from June through August.

South Haven Center for the Arts: National juried exhibition with the Arts and Aging Partnership of Southwest Michigan on display from June 20 to Aug. 1.

South Haven Memorial Library: Kids story time and yoga class at 10 a.m. on Mondays.

Michigan Maritime Museum: Fish tales storytime from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays.

Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum: "It's Guessing Time" Storywalk by Mila Milan available through July 31.

Photo provided / Tom Renner

Fire departments from four communities responded to a multiple structure fire – a residence and a nearby mobile home – on Tuesday east of Grand Junction on July 7.

July

12 – American Legion Post 49: Sunday breakfast buffet from 8 a.m. to noon. Cost $10.

12 – South Haven Dragon Boat Association: Dragon Boat social paddle from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Check-in begins at 2:30 p.m. Cost $10, first visit is free.

13 – South Haven Memorial Library: Kids Bingo at 5 p.m. Grab your dabbers and get ready for a roaring good time. Join us for a few rounds of Bingo with prizes.

14 – South Haven Memorial Library: Preschool storytime at 11 a.m. Books, rhymes and wiggles – dino style. Preschool storytime features age-appropriate stories and activities for our littlest explorers.

15 – South Haven Memorial Library: Friends of the South Haven library meeting from 2 to 3 p.m. Public is welcome.

15 – Historical Association of South Haven: "Scandal and Shine presentation on the roaring twenties by Executive Director of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum Erica Layton at 7 p.m. at the Forest House Hotel, 313 Center St., South Hsven. Free event and pen to the public.

15 – Renaissance and Papyrus: Book signing with former South Haven resident Jennifer Murphy at 2 p.m. Meet the author and pick up her latest novel, "The Ghost Women" – a gorgeously written dark academia mystery filled with witchcraft, centuries old secrets and murder.

16 – South Haven Memorial Library: Storytime at 11 a.m. and design a dinosaur necklace.

16 – Lake Michigan College: vegetable garden session two from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the hoop house at the South Haven campus. Cost $15 for each session.

16 – South Haven Memorial Library: Riverfront concert series at 6 p.m. Bubble activity before the concert provided by the library.

16 – South Haven Memorial Library: Friends of the library used book sale from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

17 – South Haven Memorial Library: Movie – Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs at 2 p.m.

17 – South Haven Memorial Library: Friends of the library used book sale from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

18 – South Haven Theatre Series: "Audrey Hepburn" written and performed by Leslie Goddard, Ph.D. at 7:30 p.m. at Listiak High School auditorium. Tickets cost $15 with free admission for students.

18 – South Haven Memorial Library: Friends of the library used book sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

18 – Senior Services of Van Buren County: 4th annual gala at 5 p.m. Food, dancing and auction. Tickets on sale for $25.

19 – First Congregational UCC: Soul Food Experience with dinner and concert featuring Serita's Black Rose Duo at 5 p.m. Cost $20, reservations required by July 12.

20 – South Haven Memorial Library: Tie dye from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Get colorful and a little messy. Create your own tie dye masterpiece to wear all summer long.

21-22 – South Haven Memorial Library: learn how to play American mahjongg from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

22 – South Haven Memorial Library: Dinosaur trivia at 6 p.m. Think you know your dinos? Put your prehistoric knowledge to the test in a fun evening of dinosaur trivia and friendly competition.

22 – South Haven Memorial Library: Hooked on Yarn from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

23 – South Haven Memorial Library: Storytime at 11 a.m. and enjoy salt dough fossils.

24 – South Haven Memorial Library: Messy art at 11 a.m. Head outside for some seriously fun, seriously messy art-making. This special outdoor session at the pavilion is all about creativity without limits.

24 – South Haven Performance Series: featuring Vox GR at 7 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church.

24 – South Haven Memorial Library: Movie – The Good Dinosaur at 2 p.m.

26 – South Haven Dragon Boat Association: Dragon Boat social paddle from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Check-in begins at 2:30 p.m. Cost $10, first visit is free.

27 – South Haven Memorial Library: Kids Bingo at 5 p.m. Grab your dabbers and get ready for a roaring good time. Join us for a few rounds of Bingo with prizes.

28 – South Haven Memorial Library: Preschool storytime at 11 a.m. Books, rhymes and wiggles – dino style. Preschool storytime features age-appropriate stories and activities for our littlest explorers.

28 – Historical Association of South Haven: Old-fashioned ice cream social from 2 to 4 p.m. featuring ice cream from DeGrandchamp's Farm Store and the Casco Band. The event will take place on the lawn at Hartman School, 355 Hubbard St.

28 – South Haven Memorial Library: Activation over Supplementation, for healthy aging and longevity at 5:30 p.m.

28-29 – South Haven Memorial Library: learn how to play American mahjongg from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

29 – South Haven Memorial Library: Glitter dino jars at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Create a sparkling glitter jar featuring your favorite dinosaur to take home as a dazzling keepsake.

30 – South Haven Memorial Library: Storytime at 11 a.m. Join us for the last storytime of summer reading that includes a mystery dinosaur craft/

30 – South Haven Memorial Library: Henna art at 6 p.m. Registration is required.

31 – Michigan Maritime Museum: Maritime makers craft activity event from 1 to 3 p.m.

31 – South Haven Memorial Library: Glow in the dark art from noon to 4 p.m. End summer reading with a bang and a glow. Create a luminous work of art that comes alive in the dark during this special drop-in event.

Stevens knows how to win in Michigan – Democrats must decide if that's enough

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI
Associated Press

SOUTH HAVEN — U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens is spending the closing weeks of Michigan's Democratic Senate primary making a simple case: she's the candidate who wins.

Stevens flipped a Republican-held House seat in suburban Detroit in 2018 and hasn't lost since, including surviving a bruising primary against a fellow Democratic incumbent after redistricting in 2022. She says it's what sets her apart from her opponent in the Aug. 4 primary, progressive Abdul El-Sayed.

Holding Michigan's Senate seat is essential to any Democratic path back to the Senate majority this fall. That imperative only grew this week after Democrats' nominee in Maine, Graham Platner, said he planned to drop out after he was accused of sexual assault, threatening another seat the party had hoped to keep competitive. While no Republican has won a U.S. Senate seat in Michigan since 1994, former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers came within 20,000 votes of doing so in 2024.

That calculation has led Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and influential Michigan Democrats, including former Sen. Debbie Stabenow, to rally behind Stevens, arguing she gives Democrats their strongest chance in November against Rogers, who is running again.

But if electability is the party establishment's top priority, it's an open question whether Democratic primary voters agree.

"Democratic leadership should think more in terms of what we want to accomplish, and less about, 'We've got to make it appeal to everybody,'" said Dave Burdick, 71, of Douglas. He's backing El-Sayed, who has surged by arguing that Democrats don't have to run to the middle to win.

El-Sayed has built his campaign around bold policy proposals, rejecting corporate PAC money and casting himself as an alternative to the status quo of the Democratic Party.

Stevens makes the case for retail politics

On a summer afternoon in South Haven, Stevens walks into a pet supply store with the ease of a seasoned campaigner. Within minutes, she's chatting with the owner about the area, greeting reporters by first name and striking up conversations with customers. She slips easily between small talk and campaign mode, asking about customers' lives before mentioning legislation she's championed and asking for their vote.

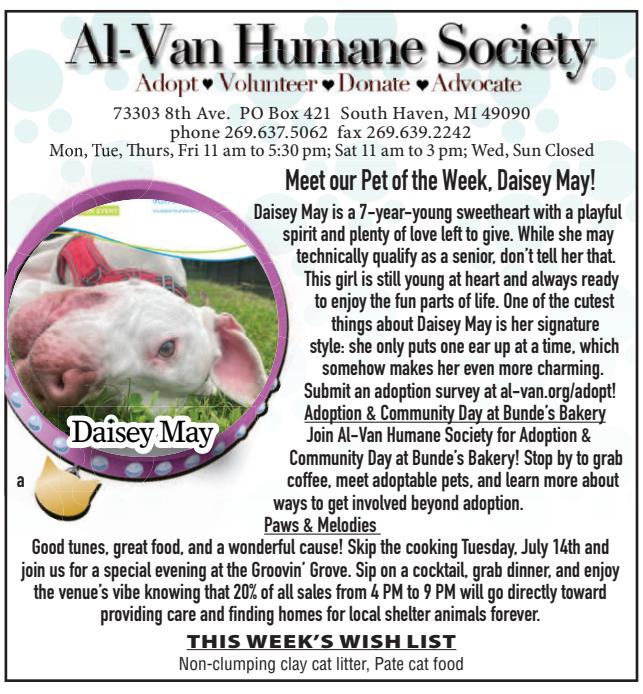
It's the kind of campaigning Stevens' allies say has defined her political career. They acknowledge she lacks the viral progressive moments that have fueled El-Sayed's rise, but say she's at her best in small rooms, union halls and local businesses – which they say is where elections are won.

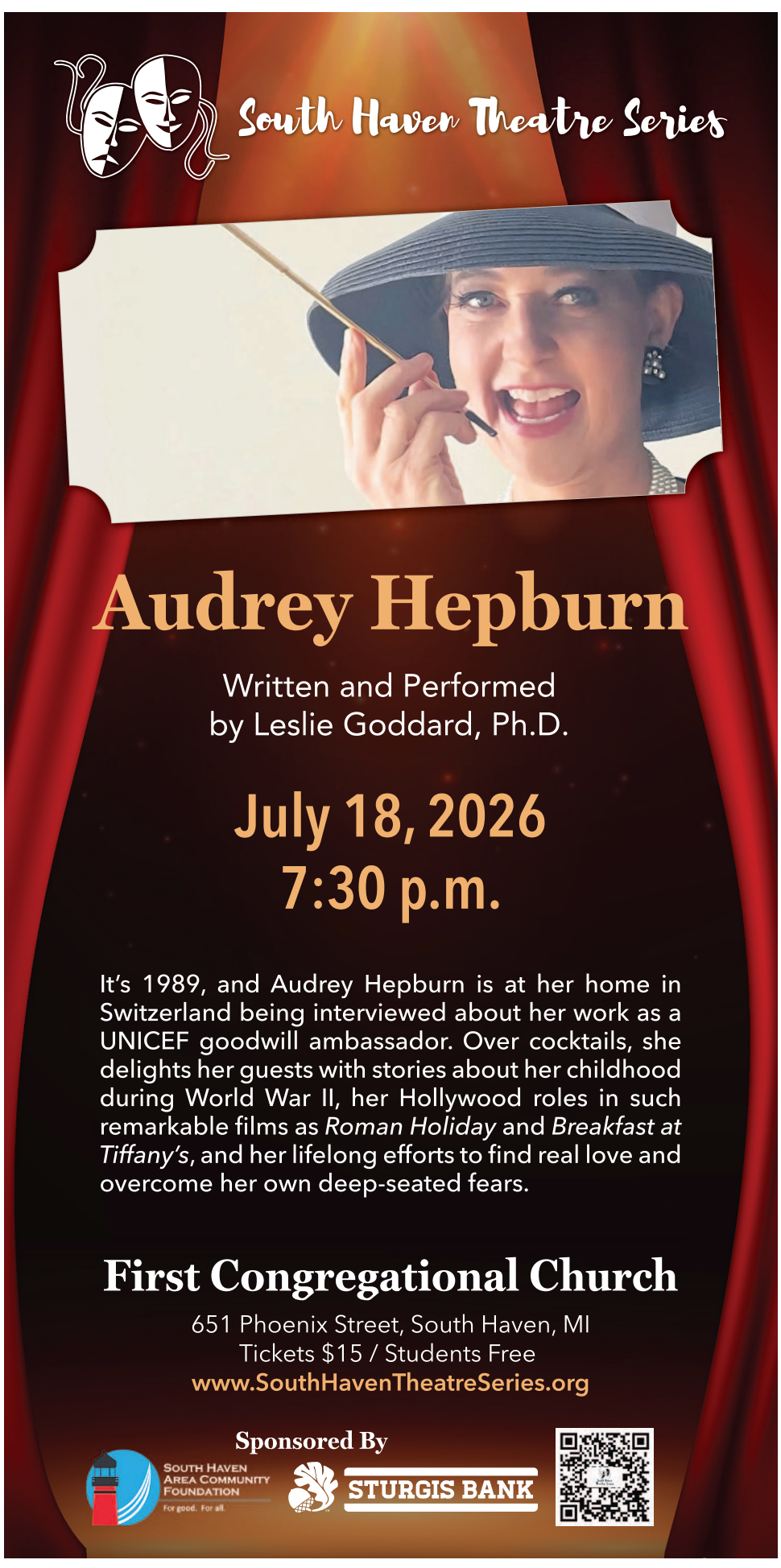
Stevens has leaned into that contrast herself.

It's also a style familiar to Michigan Democrats. From former Gov. Jennifer Granholm to current-Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, successful statewide candidates have often paired an upbeat, personable campaign style with a pragmatic message centered on economic issues.

But unlike Granholm or Whitmer, Stevens has yet to generate the kind of broad grassroots enthusiasm that defined their statewide campaigns. El-Sayed, meanwhile, has packed rallies with progressive supporters and high-profile endorsers.

Stevens has leaned more heavily on tens of millions of dollars in outside spending, which could become one of Stevens' biggest liabilities in the primary. Outside groups have spent more than $30 million to boost her candidacy, dwarfing the spending behind El-Sayed.


Al-Van Humane Society
Adopt ♥ Volunteer ♥ Donate ♥ Advocate
73303 8th Ave. PO Box 421 South Haven, MI 49090
phone 269.637.5062 fax 269.639.2242
Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 11 am to 5:30 pm; Sat 11 am to 3 pm; Wed, Sun Closed
Meet our Pet of the Week, Daisey May!
Daisey May
Daisey May is a 7-year-young sweetheart with a playful spirit and plenty of love left to give. While she may technically qualify as a senior, don't tell her that. This girl is still young at heart and always ready to enjoy the fun parts of life. One of the cutest things about Daisey May is her signature style: she only puts one ear up at a time, which somehow makes her even more charming. Submit an adoption survey at al-van.org/adopt!
Adoption & Community Day at Bunde's Bakery
Join Al-Van Humane Society for Adoption & Community Day at Bunde's Bakery! Stop by to grab coffee, meet adoptable pets, and learn more about ways to get involved beyond adoption.
Paws & Melodies
Good tunes, great food, and a wonderful cause! Skip the cooking Tuesday, July 14th and join us for a special evening at the Groovin' Grove. Sip on a cocktail, grab dinner, and enjoy the venue's vibe knowing that 20% of all sales from 4 PM to 9 PM will go directly toward providing care and finding homes for local shelter animals forever.
THIS WEEK'S WISH LIST
Non-clumping clay cat litter, Pate cat food


South Haven Theatre Series
Audrey Hepburn
Written and Performed
by Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.
July 18, 2026
7:30 p.m.
It's 1989, and Audrey Hepburn is at her home in Switzerland being interviewed about her work as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador. Over cocktails, she delights her guests with stories about her childhood during World War II, her Hollywood roles in such remarkable films as Roman Holiday and Breakfast at Tiffany's, and her lifelong efforts to find real love and overcome her own deep-seated fears.
First Congregational Church
651 Phoenix Street, South Haven, MI
Tickets $15 / Students Free
www.SouthHavenTheatreSeries.org
Sponsored By
South Haven Area Community Foundation
For good. For all.
STURGIS BANK